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Address of the Freeholders of the County of Middlesex.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

"We, your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Freeholders of the County of Middlesex, feeling in common with the rest of our countrymen deep regret and indignation at the late events in Portugal, which have disappointed our most sanguine hopes and our best-founded expectations, pray your Majesty to take into your consideration this our most loyal statement and petition.

We prejudge the case of no man: but we feel under such circumstances of national disappointment, that to demand a strict, a rigorous, and impartial inquiry into all its causes is not only an immutable principle of justice, but has been the invariable practice of our ancestors.

Without such an inquiry, the guilty cannot be fairly brought to punishment, nor can the characters of the innocent who may be suspected be effectually vindicated and restored.

When we reflect that our armies and our fleets are composed of men of the same description, and drawn from the same sources, that our engagements at sea always shed new lustre on the navy, and always add to the national security, while our victories on land are generally unavailing, and often lead to disgrace, we cannot persuade ourselves that the whole blame in the late transactions is attributable to our commanders.

We suspect that it may be owing either to some radical defect in our military system, or to the incapacity or misconduct of those by whose counsels the efforts of your Majesty's land forces are directed, and to whose judgment and discretion the management of the army is entrusted: that such defect, incapacity, or misconduct, cannot be remedied by a court-martial, or by any military court of inquiry.

We therefore pray your Majesty, not only to order courts martial to be held on the conduct of all the Officers who advised or signed either the armistice or convention in Portugal, but to recommend to the parliament, to institute such a public investigation into all the causes and circumstances of these transactions, as may lead to the adoption of such measures and salutary reforms, as may secure the punishment of the guilty, however high their station, and prevent the recurrence of similar calamities.

And we assure your Majesty, that whoever advised you to rebuke the Lord Mayor and corporation of the city of London, for their late loyal Petition, acted in defiance of the principles which seated your Majesty on the throne, and in contempt and violation of the undoubted rights and liberties of your people, asserted at all times by our ancestors, and finally secured to us at the revolution by the bill of rights."

ANSWER OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Whitehall, Nov. 16, 1808.

GENTLEMEN,

"I have laid before his Majesty the petition which I received from you, as Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, from the meeting of the Freeholders of the county of Middlesex, held at Hackney, on the 7th of this month.

I am, gentlemen, &c.

HAWKESBURY."

To the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, NOV. 19.

Transmitted by Admiral Young, Commander in Chief at Plymouth.

Amethyst, Hamoaze, Nov. 15.

MY LORD,

"I have the most sincere pleasure in acquainting you, that his Majesty's ship the Amethyst, under my command, captured on the 10th inst. at night, the French frigate La Thetis, of 44 guns, and a crew of 330 men, who had served years together, and 106 soldiers from L'Orient for Martinique. Being close to the N. W. point of Groa, she was seen a quarter before seven, P. M. and immediately chased; and a close action began before 10 o'clock, which continued with little intermission till 20 minutes after midnight. Having fallen on board for a short time after 10, and from a quarter past 11, when she intentionally laid us on board, till she surrendered (about an hour) she lay fast along side, the fluke of our best bower anchor having entered her foremast main-deck port, and she was, after great slaughter, boarded and taken possession of, and some prisoners received from her, before we disengaged the ships. Shortly after, a ship of war was seen closing fast under a press of sail, which proved to be the Triumph, which immediately gave us the most effectual assistance that the anxious and feeling mind of such an officer as Sir Thomas Hardy could suggest. At half past one, the Shannon joined, received prisoners from, and took La Thetis in tow. She is wholly dismasted, dreadfully shattered, and had her commander (Pinsun, Capitaine de

Vaisseau) and 135 men killed; 102 wounded, amongst whom are all her officers, except three. The Amethyst has lost 19 killed, and 51 wounded, amongst the former is Lieut. Bernard Kindall, a most promising young officer, of the Royal Marines, who suffered greatly; and that invaluable officer, Lieut. S. J. Payne, dangerously wounded; the mizen mast shot away, and the ship much damaged and leaky. No language can convey an adequate idea of the cool and determined bravery shown by every officer and man of this ship; and their truly noble behaviour has laid me under the greatest obligation.

The assistance I received from my gallant friend, the First Lieutenant, Mr. Goddard Blennerhasset, an Officer of great merit and ability, is beyond all encomium. Lieutenants Hill and Crouch, and Mr Fair, the Master (whose admirable exertions, particularly at the close of the action, when the enemy was on fire, the boarders employed, and the ship had suddenly made two feet water, surmounted all difficulties) and are happily preserved to add lustre to his Majesty's service. In justice to Monsieur Dede, the surviving Commander of La Thetis, I must observe, he acted with singular firmness, and was the only Frenchman on the quarter-deck, when we boarded her.—I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL SEYMOUR."

Amiral Lord Gambier, &c.

N. B. Dimensions of La Thetis—length, 162 feet; breadth, 41 feet, 6 inches; 28 eighteen-pounders (twenty-four pounds English) on the main deck; 12 thirty-six-pounders (forty-two pounds English) on the quarter-deck; 4 eight-pounders on the forecastle. One thousand barrels of flour on board, beside known stores.

This Gazette contains a copy of the dispatches received by Lord Castlereagh, from Lieut. General Beckwith, commanding at Barbadoes, and inclosing the letter of Lieut.-Colonel Blackwell, of the 4th W. I. regiment, detailing the operations of the force under the command of the latter, at Mariegalante, in repelling the attack of a detachment of French troops, under Colonel Gabriels, from Guadaloupe. The whole of these details have been anticipated by the Barbadoes papers of the 14th September, with the exception, that the detachment, in this official account is stated to have returned to Barbadoes.

Return of prisoners of war who surrendered—4 Captains, 8 Lieutenants, 162 rank and file, and 1 Staff.

N. B. One Lieutenant, and 1 rank and file of Artillery included.

List of Officers, and names of prisoners—Captain Bagnie, Commandant; Captain Olivier, etat Major; Captains Cazy and Huart; Lieut. Monte, of the Artillery; Lieutenants Leal, Payem, Arteaul, Despreaux, Frachard, Alegre, and Lorcis.

Return of arms, ammunition, and accoutrements taken and destroyed—One field-piece, 450 firelocks, 200 belts and pouches, and 24 kegs of ball cartridges. Ammunition for field-piece not ascertained.

PROVINCIAL OCCURRENCES.

ULSTER.

The following notice which has been circulated through the county of Cavan well deserves to be known and recommended.

Lord Frankfort will give a loom, value 5*l.* 10*s.* to each of the first five tenants on his estate in the county of Cavan, who shall properly cultivate five acres of hemp; and in the same proportion to the next six who shall cultivate a quantity of land, not less than two acres each; this to be over and above all public encouragement for the year 1809. His Lordship also engages to take on himself any loss or failure which may be occasioned by the attempt.—Further particulars may be had by application to J. Tatlow, esq. Agent to Lord Frankfort.

On the 4th of this month a very fine vessel belonging to Mr. Langtry, was launched from Mr. Ritchie's Dock, and went off the stocks in capital style. She was named the "DONEGALL," in compliment to the Marquis, who has so justly acquired the respect and esteem of all ranks, as, "the best of Landlords." The vessel is intended for the London Trade. Its elegant structure does infinite credit to the taste of the Ship-builder. The day being fine, a great concourse of people attended to witness the gratifying scene.

Early on Sunday morning, the 6th ult. a cotton-mill near Stoneyford, ten miles